

### **VIRGINIA TO GET \$21.0 MILLION TO REDUCE CLASS SIZE**

In his weekly radio address, President Clinton will urge Congress to work in a bipartisan spirit to continue his plan to reduce class size in early grades to 18 students per teacher. He will also announce that the U.S. Department of Education is releasing new guidelines to help states and local school districts use the funds they will receive this summer to begin hiring well-qualified teachers to reduce class size in early grades. As the U.S. Senate considers the Education Flexibility Act, it is more important than ever that the Murray-Kennedy amendment to continue the President's class size reduction plan is passed as well.

Studies show that smaller class sizes help teachers provide more personal attention to students and spend less time on discipline; as a result students learn more and get a stronger foundation in the basic skills. In 1998, President Clinton proposed to help local schools hire 100,000 well-prepared teachers in order to reduce class size in grades 1-3 to a national average of 18, and make sure that every child gets a solid foundation in the basics. Last year, the President signed into law the first installment of his seven-year, \$12.4 billion proposal to hire 100,000 new teachers nationwide. For the first year, \$1.2 billion was provided to help local communities hire 30,000 teachers. The funds will be available to school districts in July. Local school boards will be incorporating these funds into the budgets they are developing right now for the next school year. To give communities the certainty they need to effectively plan and phase in a seven-year reduction in class size, Congress must act now.

In July, Virginia will receive \$21.0 million as its first installment of funds to hire teachers to reduce class size in early grades. For Virginia's largest school districts, that means:

<b>VIRGINIA</b>	
FAIRFAX CNTY PUBLIC SCHL	\$1,512,363
NORFOLK CITY PUBLIC SCHL	1,410,134
VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBL	1,222,804
RICHMOND CITY PUBLIC SCH	1,219,742
NEWPORT NEWS CITY PUBLIC	896,195
PORTSMOUTH CITY PUBLIC S	641,288
CHESAPEAKE CITY PUBLIC S	623,632
CHESTERFIELD CNTY PUBLIC	543,504
HAMPTON CITY PUBLIC SCHL	535,932
ROANOKE CITY PUBLIC SCHL	504,267
HENRICO CNTY PUBLIC SCHL	498,197
PRINCE WILLIAM CNTY PUBL	478,838
LYNCHBURG CITY PUBLIC SC	321,054
DANVILLE CITY PUBLIC SCH	311,485
SUFFOLK CITY PUBLIC SCHL	296,201
ARLINGTON CNTY PUBLIC SC	290,783
WISE CNTY PUBLIC SCHLS	256,720
TAZEWELL CNTY PUBLIC SCH	253,633
ALEXANDRIA CITY PUBLIC S	237,582
PETERSBURG CITY PUBLIC S	221,940

The guidelines and total estimated school district allocations are available on the Internet at <http://www.ed.gov/inits/ClassSize/index.html>.